

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

As you know, many of us have expressed concern about the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission's map of eligible areas for Mobility Fund Phase II Support (MFII). This map is intended to reflect areas that lack unsubsidized mobile 4G LTE service, but it unfortunately falls short of an accurate depiction of areas in need of universal service support. Therefore, the FCC's challenge process will play an outsized role in determining appropriate eligible areas for MFII support. Communities in our states that are not initially eligible or successfully challenged will be ineligible for up to \$4.53 billion in support over the next 10 years, exacerbating the digital divide and denying fundamental economic and safety opportunities to rural communities.

While you have noted that state, local, and Tribal governments can participate in the challenge process, absent additional direction, they may remain unaware or unprepared to do so. We appreciate and encourage additional outreach to state, local, and Tribal governments on how they can participate in the challenge process. However, with less than 100 days remaining and additional state outreach presentations not yet completed, MFII challengers will struggle within the current timeframe to provide requisite information that will correct significant flaws in the current map. Additionally, the parameters for challenges have already changed once during the existing challenge timeframe through the Order on Reconsideration on April 30, 2018, altering existing measurements for challenges.

In recent testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee, you expressed that the FCC has "some flexibility [for] an extension of time" to ensure sufficient time for state and local governments, as well as carriers and other potential challengers, such as state farm bureaus, to fully participate in the process. To provide this additional time and encourage participation in the challenge process, we urge you to extend the current challenge process window by 90 days.

The MFII process presents an opportunity to take significant steps to address the digital divide and preserve and expand mobile broadband in rural areas. We strongly urge you to ensure this opportunity is available to all communities deserving support through compiling accurate data that reflects our constituents' experience, including providing additional time for challengers to submit data, conducting additional information sessions for state, local, and Tribal governments,

and providing Congress with an update on final eligible areas before conducting an auction of support.

Sincerely,



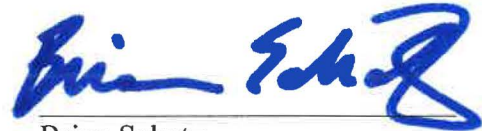
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



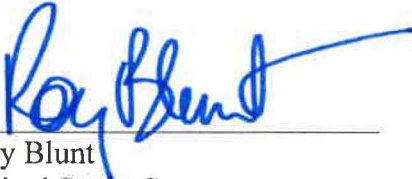
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



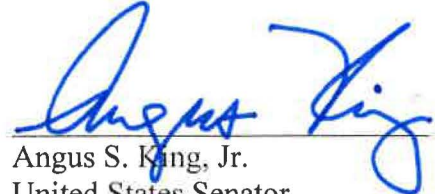
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



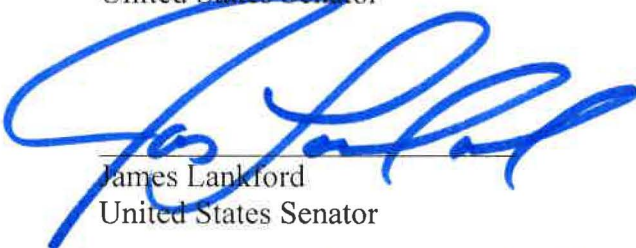
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



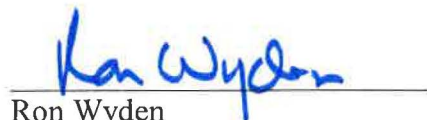
Pat Roberts  
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

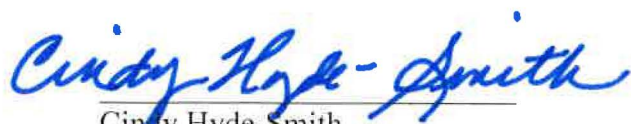


Richard Shelby  
United States Senator

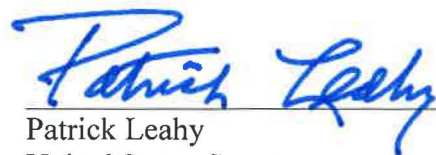


Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator





Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



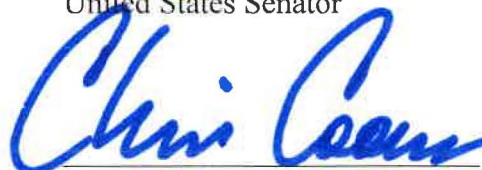
Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



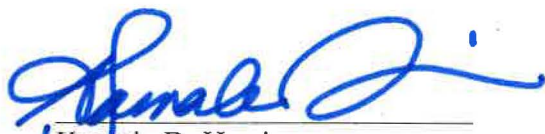
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



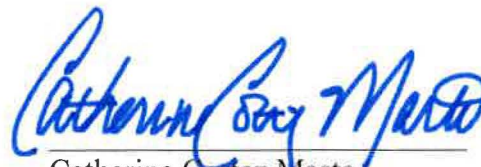
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



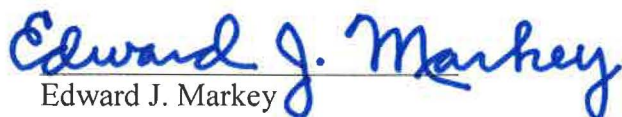
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Doug Jones  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

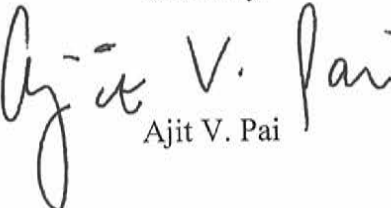
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I am committed to ensuring that the challenge process will produce a high-quality map. To this end, we made sure state, local, and Tribal governments—not just carriers—were able to participate. We sent Commission staff to hold on-site training events in New Mexico, Kansas, West Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, and Washington state, with another planned for tomorrow in Mississippi. We released a map of areas most susceptible to challenge, that is those where only one unsubsidized carrier reported offering service, so that challengers could better target their efforts. We also changed the parameters of speed testing for challengers, reducing the number of measurements required to successfully challenge an area. And we hope to release the list of qualifying handsets to the public in the next two weeks so that local governments can more easily enlist volunteers.

Nevertheless, I agree with you that the agency should be exercising its discretion to ensure that the challenge process is as robust as possible. Accordingly, I support extending the challenge process window by 90 days and have directed the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force to figure out the procedural steps necessary to do just that. By lengthening the period during which challenges can be submitted, challengers will have an opportunity to conduct additional tests, which in turn means a more accurate map for carrying out the Mobility Fund Phase II auction.

Like you, the Commission is focused on ensuring that our limited universal service funds are effectively and accurately targeted to areas that lack unsubsidized 4G LTE service. This is a vital part of our strategy toward closing the wireless dimension of the digital divide. I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

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United States Senate  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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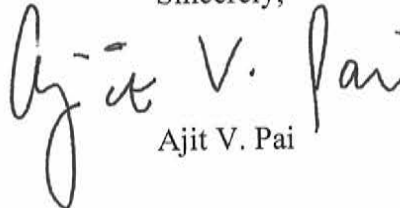
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

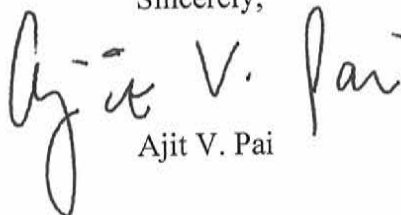
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

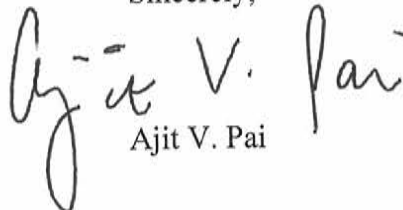
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

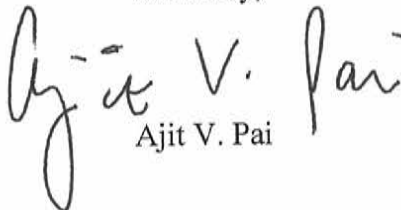
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable James Lankford  
United States Senate  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

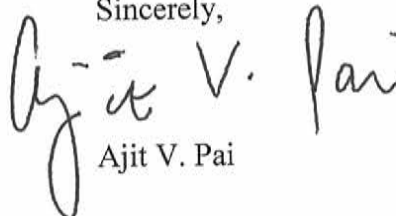
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

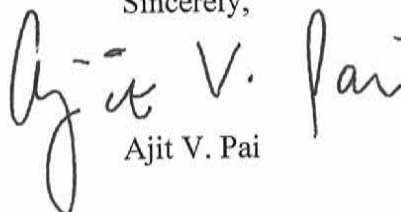
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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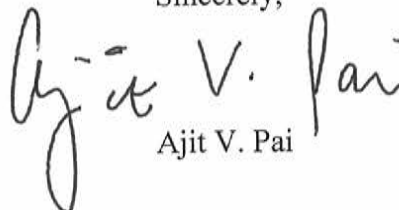
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
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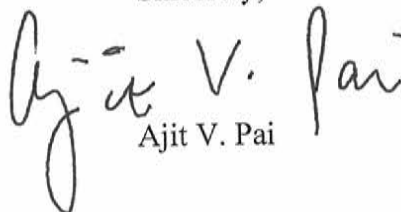
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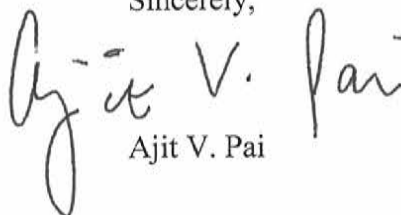
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

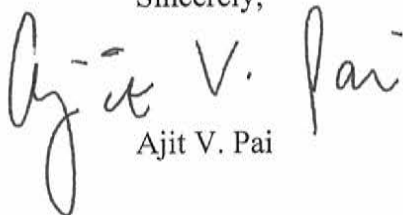
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

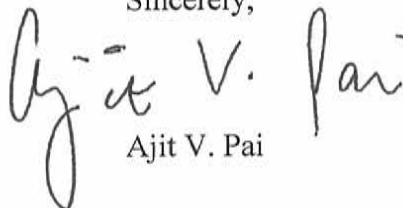
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

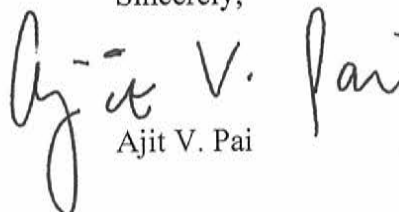
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

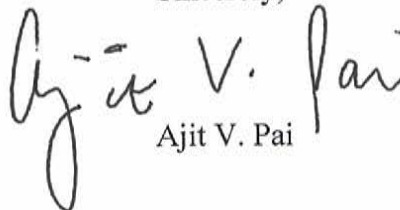
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

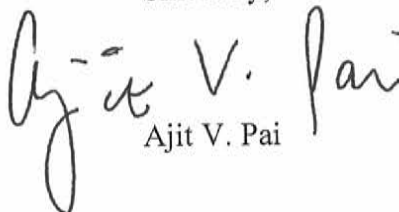
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

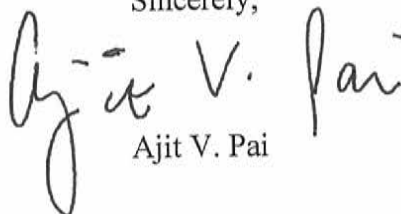
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Young:

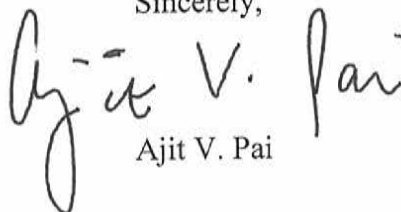
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
United States Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

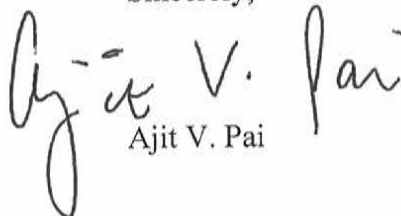
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate  
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

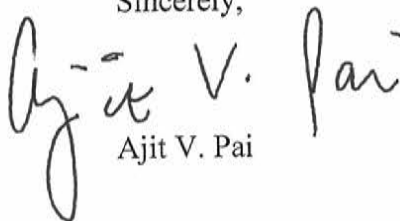
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

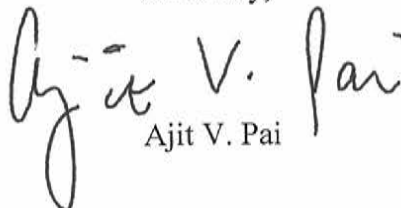
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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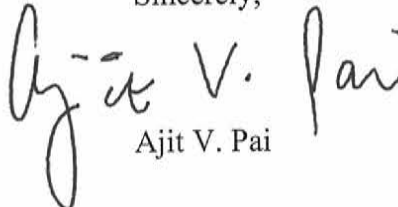
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

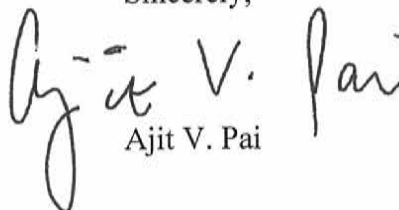
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

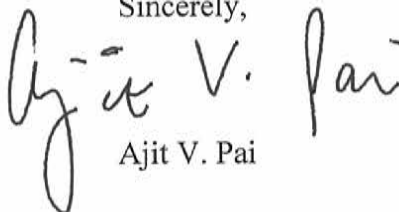
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

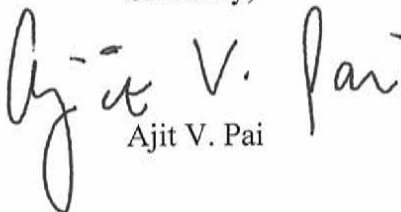
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Chris Coons  
United States Senate  
127A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

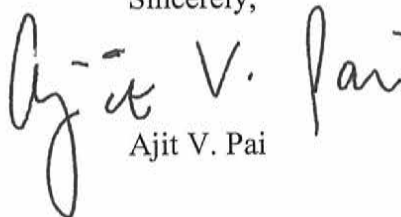
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

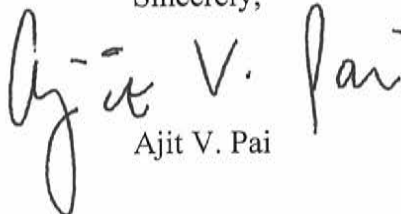
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

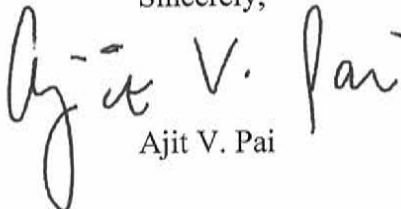
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Doug Jones  
United States Senate  
326 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jones:

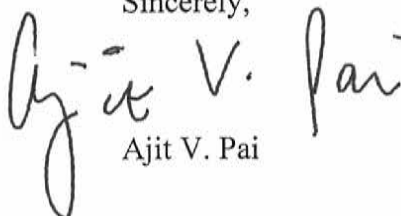
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

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THE CHAIRMAN

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

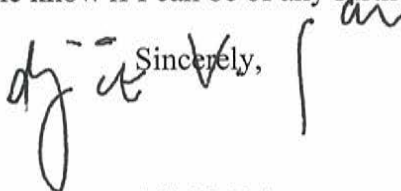
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